

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 11-64—sSB 852**

*Public Health Committee*

*Planning and Development Committee*

*Judiciary Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
INITIATIVES**

**SUMMARY:** This act amends the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' (DMHAS) supportive housing initiative by eliminating references to its "Pilot" and "Next Steps" phases, and instead uses the term "permanent." It also (1) adds two state entities to those already collaborating with DMHAS on the supportive housing initiative and (2) establishes a process for development of scattered site housing. Finally, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVE**

*Designation as "Permanent"*

By law, DMHAS is responsible for a supportive housing initiative that provides housing units mainly to individuals with mental illness. To date, the initiative has operated under two phases—a "Pilot" phase and the "Next Steps" phase. Under the pilot, DMHAS was required to provide up to 650 housing units and support services to eligible persons. Subsequently, the law was amended to authorize an additional 1,000 units under the Next Steps initiative. The act eliminates references to the Pilot and Next Step initiatives and instead refers to the initiative as "permanent supportive housing."

By law, those eligible for the initiative are:

1. people or families affected by psychiatric disabilities, chemical dependencies, or both and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
2. families who qualify for the temporary assistance for needy families program;
3. 18- to 23-year olds who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless because they are transitioning out of foster care or other residential programs; and
4. community-supervised offenders with serious mental health needs who are under Judicial Branch or Correction Department jurisdiction.

The act clarifies that individuals and families with special needs and those at risk for homelessness are eligible for supportive housing.

*Agency Collaboration*

DMHAS establishes and operates the supportive housing initiative in

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

collaboration with the departments of Social Services (DSS), Children and Families (DCF), and Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). The act adds the Department of Correction and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to this collaboration.

### *Development and Scattered Site-Model*

Under prior law, CHFA issued requests for proposals (RFPs) for those interested in participating in the supportive housing initiative to applicants including organizations deemed by DMHAS, DSS, and DCF as qualified to provide services. CHFA then reviewed and underwrote projects developed under the supportive housing initiative.

The act limits CHFA's review and underwriting to "development projects" and creates a new RFP process for scattered-site models of supportive housing. It eliminates specific forms of financial assistance CHFA can provide.

The act requires DMHAS and DSS to issue, within available appropriations, RFPs in a scattered-site model for homeless individuals with psychiatric disabilities and substance abuse disorders.

## BACKGROUND

### *Related Act*

PA 11-61, §§ 133-35, contains the same language as this act.

OLR Tracking: JK:KM:JL:df